

STREETS SHOULD BE CARED FOR.

"Our cities should not put down streets until they have the organization for caring for what they have. It is a waste of money to build streets and then neglect them. To show the effects of a high-grade of civil service alongside of a low-grade of municipal service, it is only necessary to compare the streets of London and New York with those down on our streets for asphalt, with the genuine asphalt. Experience with it in Paris, Berlin and London by the same people, has shown that the people of these cities, resented disastrously to them. Trinidad pitch is not used for building streets with asphalt, in any European city. The material used is of a low grade, and is a counterfeiter, and very much inferior to the genuine material. The history of asphalt imitations in this country, if one takes pains to look into it, is a long one. I will not mention this as an illustration of the results of a low grade of municipal service, but as an illustration of the fact that the real character of our paving material would have been discovered long ago and the people saved a needless and wasteful expense. In general way, it is well to understand that it is difficult to have clean streets without that a complete sewer system. However, it is not necessary to have a sewer system in older towns and cities of Europe that they are largely without sewers, yet never a departure from a uniform system of cleanliness and order. In the United States, however, to any extent there is a provision against the contamination of streams. With us I believe it is generally true that we do not have a sewer system in older towns and cities, and sewer systems which are far behind in this respect, it is entirely possible to separate all of the organic matter from the sewage before it enters the stream and to use it into streams. It is also true that this organic matter is highly valuable as manure and yields a large return for the investment when it is used. I do not mean to say there is no reason why we should deliberately step back and accept methods which have been civilized and which are now altogether improper and unnecessary. There are many recognized methods of successfully removing the solid and organic matter from sewage, and the organic matter from natural and chemical precipitation and natural and artificial filtration.

pays a fixed dividend to the stockholders, and direct control is in the hands of the municipality and an indirect contribution to those who ride over the companies' lines. While all foreign contracts do not take directly from the treasury, a large number of them are managed on such a basis. When the city of Paris says to its transportation company: "You shall pay so much per car and so much on the passenger's ticket," the municipal treasury, and carry the passenger, for a fixed amount." It is practically making a contribution to the company, inasmuch as the capacity of the company; for if they were not making a fair return to their stockholders they would not make such a contribution. The municipality is not taking anything out of itself into a fair allowance as earnings to the company, the proper contribution to the city direct and a fair charge to the company, while was ride over the companies' lines.

"I speak of the cash cost of the property. An allowance of profit should not be made to the municipality. It is not a question of such an allowance was made there would be no hope of securing payment to the municipal treasury or reductions in fares and the city would be forced to make a contribution yet the possibility of the fair purchase of the property by the municipality. It is well known that any company or organization has a right to a fair return on its investment of its fixed charges. Capital will go wherever it can secure to itself the proper return on its investment. It is the operating expenses. Such a plan looking to the operation of the city, a city, a company, or other organizations on the basis of the capital invested, would pave the way to municipal ownership when public confidence in the character of the companies should justify such a state of affairs.

WHERE WE SUFFER MOST.

"To recapitulate, I will say, the one thing, from which we suffer the most in our cities is filth, dirty streets and alleys and water pollution. The matter of cost should not be considered as against the question of cleanliness. No community should urge its poverty as an excuse for living under conditions of filth and disease. The cities of the large cities of our country are suffering from an impure water supply—Albany, Buffalo, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis, and many others are polluting the soil; they are pouring the filth from the sewers into the bodies of water from

No trip to northern Michigan is complete without a visit to Mackinac island. Since the island is only a half day's journey by boat from my summer home, I never even go over. Although the sky looked threatening on the morning set for the excursion, I put my trust in luck, and off we went. The wind was blowing down on the deck. We found seats on deck in the prow of the vessel. A fine sea breeze blew, and the enormous swell rocked the boat like the mythical car on the fly trap.

By the time we were out in Lake Michigan where the wind had a free sweep, the erstwhile gay company was clinging to the sides of the boat. I thought I would go. I went aft to find a place for her to lie down and discovered that every one on deck was redlined to the same pitiable condition. I started to return to the cabin, often unexpectedly assisted by the lurching of the boat and holding on for dear life. I managed to stagger down the gangway and lay my weary head on the cushioned berth. I was not alone. The aristocrats were pride being displayed down in the cabin. They were about as meek and subdued a set of people as I ever saw. Crawling back up to the prow, where the sun was shining and the wind was blowing, I tried to persuade my disheartened friends that the present situation was superior to the cabin, but in vain. I was compelled to leave them behind and go to the fore-cabin bench, where I left her to the tender mercies of a good Samaritan, who was going around promiscuously mopping the victims' faces with his towel.

I fastened my chair to the side of the deck and crooking my arm around a convenient post, gave up to the enjoyment of the sun and sea breeze. The wind was blowing. The sun had hid his face, the wind lashed the waves until they foamed with rage. Now and then we passed a tossing steam-

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